



NEWS RELEASE

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District: District 2 - Redding
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans to Begin Replacement of Pit River Bridge Deck

REDDING – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 2 has awarded the first of two consecutive projects to replace the deck of the Pit River Bridge, over Shasta Lake on Interstate 5 (I-5) 14 miles north of Redding. On December 5, 2005, weather permitting, crews will begin placing speed reduction signs on both northbound and southbound approaches to the Bridge in preparation for construction. Motorist will be slowed to 45 miles per hour while crossing the bridge and the reduction will remain throughout the duration of both projects.

Built in 1942 by the Bureau of Reclamation as part of the Central Valley project, the Pit River Bridge has a steel truss design supporting a concrete upper deck serving motorist on I-5 and a lower railway used by Union Pacific Railroad. The 63-year-old concrete deck, along with portions added during a widening project in 1966, shows advanced signs of fatigue. Harsh winter weather, de-icing agents, increased traffic and larger, heavier truckloads have all taken their toll resulting in the need to replace the deck.

This first project will install approximately 3,000 feet of protective covering under the concrete deck to facilitate deck replacement and insure the deck work does not adversely effect the Union Pacific Railroad or the lake below.

“The high volume of traffic using the bridge, the condition of the deck and the railroad beneath present challenges to construction efforts,” said Caltrans District 2 Director, Brian Crane. “The protective cover will provide a working platform as well as safeguard Shasta Lake boaters and the Union Pacific railroad facilities during the deck replacement phase next year. The slower speeds support the construction efforts and reduce the risk of problems with the existing deck, while minimizing impacts to level of service,” said Crane.

The Bridge is a critical link of the I-5 corridor. Used for moving goods and services through northern California, it has average traffic volumes exceeding 20,000 vehicles per day. Signs alerting motorists of the “bridge work and 45 MPH ahead” will be posted and the California Highway Patrol will be out enforcing the speed limit.

The first project, estimated at \$6.5 million was awarded to J.F. Shea Inc., of Redding. Its target date for completion is late July 2006. The second project, deck replacement, is scheduled to begin around that time and has yet to be awarded.

NOTE: *An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address:* http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm